

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 24647 241639Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH SPANISH PRIME MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: PARIS MATCH PUBLISHED AN INTERVIEW WITH PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ INTERMINGLED WITH EXTREMELY FLATTERING DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

2. AUGUST 28 EDITION OF PARIS MATCH PUBLISHED INTERVIEW OF AUGUST 14 BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ AND PHILIPPE GANIER-RAYMOND. COMMENTARY INTERSPERSED THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW IS EXTREMELY LAUDATORY OF SUAREZ. ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS PORTRAY HIM IN FLATTERING TERMS. HIGH-LIGHTS OF ARTICLE FOLLOW. COPIES POUCHE TO MADRID AND EUR/IBE.

-- ARTICLE IS HEADLINED, "FRANCO TOLD ME BEFORE HE DIED THAT YOU MUST ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY."

-- SUAREZ IS QUOTED AS PRAISING SOCIALIST LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ AS A MAN OF SURPRISING INTELLIGENCE WITH WHOM SUAREZ IS IN AGREEMENT ON ALMOST ALL PROBLEMS. SUAREZ CALLS GONZALEZ AN AUTHENTIC PATRIOT.

-- SUAREZ IS QUOTED AS DESCRIBING THE BIGGEST PROB-
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PAGE 02 PARIS 24647 241639Z

LEM FOR SPAIN AS BRINGING TOGETHER AN ACTIVE

AND INTELLIGENT OPPOSITION WITH NO EXPERIENCE
IN POWER WITH A GOVERNING GROUP THAT HAS NO
IDEA OF POLITICAL PARTY LIFE.

-- ON THE COMMUNIST PARTY, SUAREZ IS QUOTED AS
SAYING THEY'RE OLD MEN WHO HAVE YET TO PROVE
THAT THEY ARE A DEMOCRATIC PARTY. SUAREZ
STATES THAT SPAIN WILL NOT LEGALIZE THE COMMU-
NIST PARTY BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY PROBLEMS IT
WOULD POSE.

-- REFERRING TO BASQUE NATIONALISM, SUAREZ IS
QUOTED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO SMASH BASQUE
TERRORISM OR ELSE LET IT SMASH ITSELF.

GAMMON

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